*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner |
| **Date:** | October 18, 2022 |
| **Subject:** | Briefing for the October 25, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, October 25, 2022**, at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in Malden. The meeting will start at **9:00 a.m.** and should adjourn by **1:00 p.m.** The Board will meet in person, following the Commonwealth’s current health and safety guidelines, and the meeting will be live-streamed and recorded. Helene Bettencourt and Courtney Sullivan will assist with all arrangements; please email or call them if you have any questions.

**OVERVIEW**

Our business agenda leads off with a review of assessment and accountability results, including the latest data for Massachusetts on mathematics and reading from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). I will present my goals as Commissioner for 2022-2023. The Board will have an initial discussion on budget priorities for FY2024. Department staff and our outside evaluator will present the second annual report on the pilot of alternative assessments for educator licensure. Two regulatory matters are on our agenda for votes: an initial vote to solicit public comment on proposed amendments to the educator licensure regulations and a final vote to adopt a technical amendment to the regulations on notification of bullying or retaliation.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Comments from the Chair**

Chair Craven will report on current issues and activities.

**Comments from the Commissioner**

**Family-school partnerships.** On Friday, October 28, the Department will host “Better Together: Strengthening Family School Partnership,” a statewide in-person summit focused on family-school partnership. This event will bring together over 300 educators and family members from many backgrounds to talk about building strong partnerships to help students thrive. Deputy Commissioner Regina Robinson and I will present keynotes, and the day will feature dozens of family-friendly workshops, including one offered by Board member Mary Ann Stewart. Interpretation services will be available, and some sessions will be delivered in Spanish or bilingually. DESE’s planning partners for the summit include the Federation for Children with Special Needs, the Massachusetts Statewide Family Engagement Center, the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement, and the School & Main Institute.

**Comments from the Secretary**

Secretary Peyser will report on current issues and activities.

**Statements from the Public**

**Routine Business: Approval of the Minutes of the September 20, 2022 Regular Meeting**

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

1. **Assessment and Accountability Results – Discussion**

I will present a summary of results from the spring 2022 administration of the MCAS tests, as well as information about this year’s accountability for schools and districts. The Department released the assessment and accountability results to the public on September 29, 2022. I will also present initial results from the 2022 mathematics and reading assessments from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Rob Curtin, Chief Officer for Data, Assessment, and Accountability will join us for the discussion.

1. **Commissioner Riley’s Goals for 2022-2023 – Discussion**

I have outlined key goals that will guide my work, and the work of the Department, in 2022-2023. I look forward to discussing my goals with the Board.

1. **Board of Elementary and Secondary Education FY2024 Budget Proposal and Report from the Board’s Budget Committee – Initial Discussion**

Senior Associate Commissioner/CFO Bill Bell will update the Board on the latest information we have about federal and state funding for K-12 education in the Commonwealth. Board member Farzana Mohamed, who chairs the Board’s Budget Committee, will discuss the committee’s process and possible priorities and program initiatives that the Board may wish to propose for the FY2024 state budget.

1. **Educator Preparation and Licensure** 
   1. **MTEL Pilot Report and Proposed Extension – Discussion**

This month we are presenting the second annual progress update on the Pilot of Alternative Assessments for Educator Licensure that the Board authorized in October 2020. Representatives from our evaluation partner, National Center for the Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research (CALDER), American Institutes for Research, will join Department staff to share the high-level findings in the report and answer questions.

* 1. **Proposed Amendments to Educator Licensure Regulations, 603 CMR 7.00 – Initial Discussion and Vote to Solicit Public Comment**

I recommend that the Board vote to solicit public comment on proposed amendments to the Educator Licensure regulations. The proposed amendments would extend the current pilot for alternative licensure assessments through June 30, 2025, create a new military spouse license as authorized by recent legislation, create provisional licenses for principals and assistant principals, create an option for out-of-state candidates to meet the Sheltered English Immersion endorsement requirement, and streamline and update other references in the regulations. Details are in the enclosed memorandum. Brian Devine, Director of Licensure; Claire Abbott, Director of Educator Effectiveness; Liz Losee, Director of Educator Effectiveness Policy; Allison Balter, Director of the Office of Language Acquisition; and Lucy Wall of our legal staff will join us for the discussion.

1. **Amendment to Regulations on Notification of Bullying or Retaliation, 603 CMR 49.00 (Technical Amendment Per Statute) – Discussion and Vote**

On August 15, the Board voted to solicit public comment on a proposed technical amendment to the regulations on Notification of Bullying or Retaliation. The proposed amendment conforms the regulatory definition of bullying to the statutory definition in Mass. General Laws Chapter 71, §37O, as amended by St. 2013, c. 38, sec. 72, and also makes non-substantive changes in formatting and numbering. Details are in your materials. Having reviewed and considered the few comments that were submitted, I recommend that the Board vote to adopt the technical amendment as presented. Joshua Varon of our legal staff will be at the meeting to respond to questions.

**OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

1. **Report on Grants Approved by the Commissioner**

Enclosed is information on grants I have approved since the September meeting under the authority the Board has delegated to the Commissioner.

1. **Chronically Underperforming Schools: Quarter 1 Reports**

Your materials include the first FY2023 quarterly progress update to the Board on the chronically underperforming schools’ implementation of their school turnaround plans.

1. **Annual Reports from 2021-2022 Advisory Councils to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

Enclosed are the 2021-2022 annual reports from the Board’s statutory advisory councils. The councils advise the Commissioner and Board on matters relating to K-12 education in the Commonwealth and offer programmatic recommendations. Each report summarizes the council’s work in the past year and presents the council’s recommendations on various issues. The reports and recommendations are those of the councils and not of the Department. We thank the council members for their time, efforts, and constructive feedback.

If you have questions about any agenda items, please call me. I look forward to meeting with you on October 25.